



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Section

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 1229  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

March 9, 2012

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI SHIP CHANNEL, TEXAS**  
**LA QUINTA CHANNEL EXTENSION AND DEEPENING PROJECT,**  
**SECTION 204 (f) FEDERAL ASSUMPTION OF MAINTENANCE**

**PURPOSE**

This public notice is to inform interested parties that the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (POCCA) will prepare a draft environmental assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Public Law 91-190, and regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 – 1508 for the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas, La Quinta Channel Extension and Deepening Project, Section 204 (f) Federal Assumption of Maintenance (project). Additionally, the POCCA will initiate agency coordination as appropriate for this project. The project is being pursued by the POCCA under Section 204 (f) of the Water Development Resources Act (WRDA) 1986, amended 1990.

This notice is being distributed to interested State, Federal, and local agencies, private organizations, news media, and individuals in order to assist in collecting facts and recommendations concerning the assumption of maintenance of the permitted deepening of the La Quinta Ship Channel Extension from -39 feet Mean Low Tide (MLT) to -45 feet plus 2 feet advanced maintenance and 2 feet allowable over depth.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The project is located at the northwest end of the existing La Quinta Ship Channel, approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Portland in Nueces County, Texas.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The existing La Quinta Ship Channel was constructed and is maintained by USACE to a depth of -45 feet MLT under a 1968 Congressional Authorization. In November 2011, the POCCA initiated construction of the 2007 Federally authorized 1.4 mile La Quinta Ship Channel Extension to a depth of -39 feet MLT and is expected to be complete in the spring of 2013. The authorized project depth for the La Quinta Ship Channel Extension of -39 feet MLT is 6 feet less than that of the existing La Quinta Ship Channel. The POCCA received a USACE Section 10/404 permit SWG-2006-00515 (formerly no. 24150) in September 2006 to construct the Federally authorized extension of the La Quinta Ship Channel; the permit was then amended in June 2011, authorizing additional dredging to deepen the 1.4 mile La Quinta Ship Channel Extension to -45 feet MLT. Upon approval of Federal assumption of maintenance, the POCCA would initiate deepening of the La Quinta Ship Channel Extension to -45 MLT.

## **NEED FOR WORK**

The USACE is responsible for the Federally authorized Corpus Christi Ship Channel, and specifically the La Quinta Ship Channel, to its authorized dimensions to ensure proper navigation of the waterway. The Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas, La Quinta Channel Extension and Deepening Project, Section 204 (f) Federal Assumption of Maintenance would extend the current maintenance dredging responsibilities of the USACE. The need for this project is derived from the transportation savings associated with handling containerized cargo as described in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas, Channel Improvement Project, Final Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement dated April 2003 and also in a February 2010 Limited Re-evaluation Report, which updated the environmental and economic components of the project. It is anticipated that the economic benefits for this project will be generated primarily from transportation cost savings associated with utilizing more fully laden vessels.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

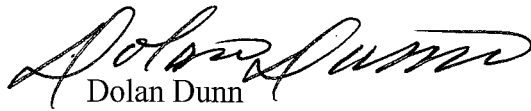
Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating the impact of this work and the future maintenance and operations are requested to mail their comments within 15 days of the date of this notice to:

Joe Moake  
HDR Engineering  
555 N. Carancahua St.  
Suite 1650  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

or email at: [joseph.moake@hdrinc.com](mailto:joseph.moake@hdrinc.com)

A mailing list for the public notice for the Draft EA will be developed from the comments received in response to this notice.

Any questions concerning the proposed action may be directed to Mr. Joe Moake at the email address above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolan Dunn", is positioned above the printed name.

Dolan Dunn

Chief, Planning, Environmental  
and Regulatory Division  
Galveston District

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston  
Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ATTN: CESWG-PE-PR